

inside SOCCER®

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Aussie Soccer's
ONLY REAL tabloid

Thommo under fire

NATIONAL COACH Eddie Thomson was under fire this week from three States over his selections for the Scotland match.

In South Australia Adelaide City coach John Perin was left fuming after his tough-as-teak central defender Alex Tobin was called up at short notice.

"He isn't fit for international duty," stormed Perin.

"How can any player be called up with such short notice?"

In Canberra there were also raised eyebrows after the omission of Socceroo skipper Paul Wade.

Insiders in the national capital see this as a clear indication that Thomson has other agendas on his mind and that a change of the national captaincy might just be in the wind – despite his repeated denials.

Paul Wade wouldn't make any comment on the issue when contacted by *Inside Soccer* but he did say on State-wide radio that "the players who run out onto the park are the best eleven available at the time."

Thomson has been clearly put in a budget stranglehold with places on that Scotland-bound jet very limited.

He had originally stated his intentions to field a Euro only team but his hand was forced after injuries to key players, Craig Moore and Ned Zelic.

Zelic pulled out, after his side's weekend 6-0 thrashing, with an injury. But it will be interesting to see whether, in fact, Zelic takes his place in the Eintracht line up for the next Bundesliga game.

In Sydney there was divided opinion over the call-up of the brilliant Tony Popovic.

Sydney United supporters were divided on the issue with some applauding the recognition of the highly-rated stopper and others asking why, yet again, has Sydney United been penalised when no other Ericsson Cup club (other than Adelaide City with the late inclusion of Tobin) has had players selected.

Thomson has also come in for criticism for his failure to clarify the national side's captaincy.

At Hampden, Graham Arnold would have been captain for the third game in a row and the time for a policy statement is now long overdue.

ON THE CARPET

Sydney United official cited

by BRUCE CAMPBELL

SYDNEY UNITED

Director Ivan Blazevic has been cited by the Australian Soccer Federation on a possible charge of 'bringing the game into disrepute'.

It is understood that the citation comes as a result of an article which appeared in a Sydney newspaper in which Blazevic was quoted criticising the imbalance of Ericsson Cup home matches this season.

Blazevic said that he felt that it was unfair that the other two Sydney clubs received more home, and derby, games than United and suggested that the imbalance could be corrected by switching the UTS Olympic v United home game to the Croatian Sports Centre.

"I don't know how you found out about this," said

Blazevic when *Inside Soccer* contacted him.

"But I am afraid that I can't comment."

"I have been advised by Soccer Australia that I would be in breach of their regulations if I commented on the situation before the tribunal met."

It is understood that if Blazevic is found guilty then he could be fined up to \$2,000.

SocOz has come under increasing cross fire from disgruntled clubs and officials this season over the frequency and size of fines.

"How can you equate the size of fines being imposed to the income from the game," said one club official.

"Recently Branko Culina was fined \$5,000 – how many weeks would it take to earn that sort of money?"



Petrie puzzler

Magpie boss slammed by Sydney soccer officials

THE controversy over Collingwood's entry into next season's Ericsson Cup rages on with the AFL club's CEO making a series of puzzling statements which have only served to anger the soccer community.

"Australian Rules will always be the best game," said Rob Petrie.

"Other codes like soccer might make major advances but they will never catch up."

Other soccer club officials are astonished at Petrie's apparent disdain for his new sport - with some wondering if the Aussie Rules club's bid is even a serious proposition.

Petrie has also gone on record as saying that Collingwood didn't expect to invest in soccer but, instead, saw it as a money making exercise.

The new club will be called Collingwood Warriors and play at Victoria Park, the AFL side's training ground.

But early season games are expected to be played at Olympic Village, Heidelberg's ground.

Club colours will be black, white and yellow - something which is seen as a compromise between the Magpies traditional AFL colours and the old Heidelberg United colour.

Some officials from excluded clubs are fuming and see this as little more than Heidelberg by another name.

"It is an absolute disgrace," said an official from one of the excluded Sydney clubs.

"We put in a top class bid - and they (the ASF) didn't want to know.

"Now we have got

an Aussie Rules club coming in who just want to make money out of us without putting anything back.

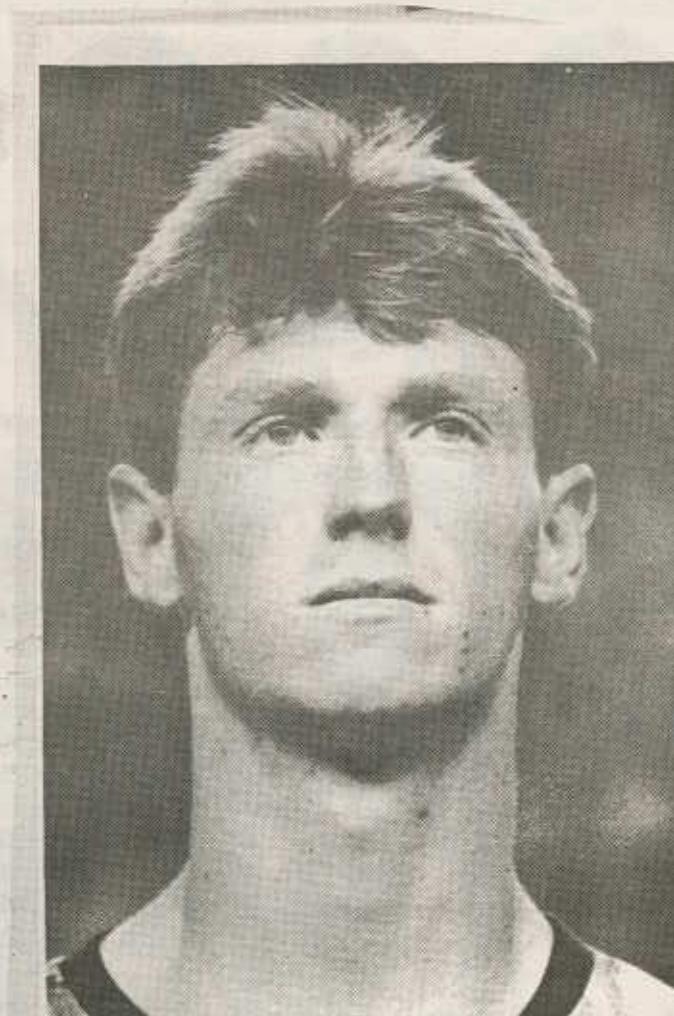
"And to top it all off even the Australian Football League aren't happy about Collingwood.

"But what about the ground.

"The ASF are letting Collingwood play at Victoria Park which doesn't have adequate floodlights but the first few games are supposed to be played at Olympic Village - which the ASF forced Heidelberg to upgrade before booting them out."

The confusion over the AFL's stance against Collingwood is expected to be clarified within the next week or so with the new Melbourne club assuring Ericsson Cup officials that their bid is genuine.

"Now we have got



Glasgow Rangers defender Craig Moore has been involved in a double bust-up - with the leaking of news of an alleged punch up just before he broke his foot in the Old Firm derby with Celtic.

Matthew McClafferty, a Celtic fan, made an official complaint to Scottish Police saying that he had been assaulted by Moore and his Ibrox team-mate Ian Durrant.

The incident is said to have occurred outside a hotel in the Lanarkshire village of Bothwell.

But an international call to the office of Campbell Ogilvie, the Rangers secretary, has met with a stern: "no comment."

"It seems that it was a case of a drunken fan going too far," says our Scottish correspondent, Alex Cameron.

"Old Firm players have to put up with all sorts of goading, maybe this one went a bit too far."

"Understandably the club wants to play the incident down as much as possible."

Moore, who was set to play against Scotland at Hampden for Australia also suffered a broken bone in his foot in the Rangers-Celtic match, making it a double trouble week for the brilliant youngster.

The injury is likely to keep him out for the rest of the season.

Celtic grabbed a late equaliser to draw the game 1-1, a result which will see the Scottish title go right down to the wire.

Moore is in line for his second championship medal if the Ibrox side can maintain its lead to the end.

Ironically, he had just managed to get back into the Rangers first team after losing his place in December.

But his pull-out from the Socceroos squad was a big blow to national coach

On your bike

POSSIBILITIES of Canberra clubs breaking away from the ACTSF have been firmly squashed according to ACTSF General Manager, Barry Neame.

"All the clubs have signed on with the ACTSF for this season," says Neame, "so I don't see how anyone can think of breaking away."

The story came to light when it appeared in the *Canberra Times* citing eight clubs who were prepared to join a 'rebel' league.

But with the fear of players being 'outlawed' by both the ASF and FIFA the story seems to have gone cold.

Only last week the ACTSF

unveiled its new-look Consolidated Builders Federation Cup with cash prizes on offer.

With kick-off scheduled for this weekend it looked like yet another case of internecine Canberra squabbling.

Already this year members of the newly elected ACTSF have tried to remove president Ron Watkins.

This latest 'Super League' style move will do little to install confidence in soccer in Canberra within the local business community - at a time when Ericsson Cup side Canberra Cosmos are trying hard to remove images of their shaky start.

Butt Out

A FRENCH PLAYER has been banned for TEN years after he took his anger out on the referee in a club amateur match - and HEAD BUTTED him.

The referee's nose was broken as a result - but player Karim Chergui was sent off and now has been suspended for a decade while his club, Saint Leu d'Esserent has been deducted six championship points.

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Aussie in punch up story

Eddie Thomson who had Moore marked for a key role.

"He's a great young player," said Thomson.

"It was a real blow for us."

"But Craig is also a big part of my Olympic plans and he may miss out on that also."

The young Queenslander had a stand-out Oceania Olympic tournament in Adelaide in January.

He looked solid in defence and also gave Thomson options in attack with his overlapping raids.

"Moore was one of

our best players in Adelaide," Thomson said shortly after the tournament.

"We would definitely be trying to get him back for the next stage against the runners-up of CONCACAF at the end of May."

Now, he looks likely to miss out on those games also - and at stake may be his place in the squad for the USA finals, should Australia qualify.

National coach Thomson originally said that he wouldn't call up a replacement for Moore for the Hampden clash but

late last week he sent out an SOS for Adelaide City's Alex Tobin.

The late call-up caused a storm in Adelaide with Zebras coach Johnny Perin stating that Tobin was carrying a knee injury and should have been ruled out of international duty.

Thomson has also done a double U turn on his previous statement of not taking any home based Aussies,

Sydney United's Tony Popovic being the other Ericsson Cup player in the party.

SOUTH Melbourne squad which will form the basis of his plans for New Zealand's Pritchett.

"This is by no means Whites are facing a significant amount of football it is important amongst the six upcoming overseas-based nations.

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New Zealand national League star Wynton Rufer as well as two me in the next couple of weeks.

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"But as the All

Prior to stepping into the Trans Tasman squad over the coming weeks to a more from this list over the

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"But as the All

The full New Zealand squad is:

Jason Batty, Perry Cotton, Thomas Edge, Simon Elliot, Mark Elrick, Alun Evans, Rodger Gray, Paul Halford, Neil Harlock, Danny Hay, Chris Jackson, Stu Jacobs, Mike McGarry, Darren McClellan, Graeme Marshall, Jason New, Andy Rennie, Grant Schofield, Tim Stevens, Alan Stroud, Ivan Volicich, Gavin Wilkinson, Mark Burton, Harry Ngata, Wynton Rufer, Mike Utting, Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne) and Chris Zoricich (Brisbane Strikers).

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Coveny in NZ squad

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Canberra on the move

FACED WITH the very real problem of huge ground rental costs and plummeting attendances Canberra Cosmos are looking to move interstate - to neighbouring Queanbeyan.

Already Seiffert Stadium, the former home of the Canberra Raiders rugby league team, has been targeted as a likely venue.

And should the Cosmos move it would be the reverse of a move by the ACT

Cosmos looking to move 'inter-state'

Government some years ago which saw the Raiders offered financial incentives to cross the border.

Now the Cosmos look likely to go the other way in the face of huge ground rental costs for Bruce

Stadium.

"I've had a look at Seiffert," said Cosmos chairman Paul Murphy.

"Both myself and Mike Lyons checked the facilities over and we have made contact with the

Seiffert Trust.

Ironically, soccer played the first ever match of any kind at Seiffert in 1969 when the ACT played the touring Moscow Dinamo on the new turf.

But it seems that rugby league is standing in the way of a soccer take-over of a stadium which is in drastic need of repair.

At present junior rugby league is played on the ground - and the Trust has given them the green light for continued first option.

Another problem facing a Cosmos relocation would be the Seiffert lights which are not up to Ericsson Cup standard.

A compromise, and one which Murphy seems likely to pursue, is that the Cosmos play select games there.

But with ground rent costs at a figure in excess of \$6,000 per match the long term viability of Bruce Stadium as the home of the Canberra Cosmos looks very tentative.

Olympic snare not on

AN ATTEMPT by UTS Olympic to snare Canberra Cosmos keeper Danny Milosevic has been quickly slapped down by the capital club.

Milosevic, who earned rave reviews earlier this season before picking up a freak accident in training, is regarded as one of the stars of the future and Canberra are keen to hang onto the former AIS player.

"He isn't going anywhere," said Cosmos official Barry Neame when quizzed. I don't know anything about an approach by Olympic but Danny is our player and as far as we are concerned is staying put.

"But he seems really happy here and I doubt if there is much substance to the story."

In other Cosmos keeper news, the Canberra club has signed on former West Adelaide keeper Tony Giannasca shortly after selling Steve Mautone to West Ham United.

Kick perfectly 'legal'

Brisbane Strikers brilliant striker Frank Farina is at the centre of controversy again - but this time it is the referees who have come to his aid.

Against claims that his 'flick-style' free-kick is illegal the ASF has set the record straight.

"No, it is perfectly legal," says national referees director, Gary Power.

"The ball must travel its circumference and be kicked - and that is what Farina is doing."

The topic was subject of an SBS *On The Ball* discussion which further fuelled argument around the country about whether it was technically correct or not.

Comparisons were made with the famous Rodney Marsh free kick in England some time back - which was subsequently outlawed by the English FA.

"Referee Gerry Connolly contacted me recently when I was overseas in New Zealand about the kick," added Power.

"He was concerned that the kick was illegal but we had already fully examined it and the ASF doesn't have a problem with it."

Meanwhile rival defences are struggling to solve the problem which has already resulted in one goal for the Top Six Strikers.

They're just animals

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS fans are in the wars after fierce clashes with police in Adelaide following a recent match at Hindmarsh Stadium involving West Adelaide.

West Ad's classy Brazilian Ayrton Andrioli scored a late second half goal to send the Knights home pointless - but it also sparked angry scenes on the terraces.

"They are a disgrace," said a senior SA police official commenting on the fans.

"We had a lot of trouble with them last year after the Grand Final and it seems that every time the Melbourne Knights come to Hindmarsh we have trouble."

The violence spread from the terraces into the neighbouring streets although it was later contained by police.

"We had extra police on duty because we knew that there would be trouble," said the police spokesman, "but that still didn't prevent it."

And just a week before, Sydney United fans went on the rampage at Bruce Stadium during a game between Canberra Cosmos and the visiting United.

During a five minute orgy of violence a group of about 80 youths threw flares and burnt seats.

Arrests were made outside the Stadium when a lot of the trouble makers were identified as Canberra youths.

It seems that a similar situation occurred in Adelaide when a lot of the Knights "fans" were, in fact, Adelaide residents.

The local SA soccer federation has played down the incident but it seems almost certain that Soccer Australia will come down heavily with hard disciplinary action.

Earlier this season both Marconi and Sydney United were placed on \$5,000 good behaviour bonds after an incident involving players at Marconi Stadium.

Soccer Australia chairman David Hill was unavailable to comment on the issue due to overseas commitments with the Australian national team but a full-scale investigation would be expected.

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Straight SHOOTING

with
Bruce Campbell



ONE OF THE arguments for not increasing the size of the National League has been that the player base will be too diluted.

In theory that sounds right; fewer clubs means that the better players will be spread around in a bigger dose.

But that isn't true and the real facts of life are that fewer clubs means the dearth of soccer in those areas where the Ericsson Cup doesn't stretch its tentacles.

Look at Canberra - a perfect example.

In the days when the City/Arrows team ruled the roost (well, from the capital, at least) a career path was provided for that city's best young players.

Then the NSL kicked them out and the youth production line all but dried up.

Sure, there have been a few notable exceptions in recent years, there was ... or ... or

In fact, there hasn't been any notable exception.

Ned Zelic was the end of the Canberra Arrows rearguard, the last of the good players to be encouraged in their early teens by the exploits of the big stars.

That means that a generation (which is seven years) has missed out on the catalyst of national league soccer.

The Canberra local league has all but dried up and, but for a last ditch stand this season by a new marketing company, the spectator interest is dead.

Take away NSL soccer from Adelaide, Brisbane or Newcastle and the situation would be the same.

Luckily Brisbane and Newcastle only suffered brief absences from the top flight.

A NSL presence is needed to provide that ultimate goal for youngsters to aspire to.

But another reality of life is that our sport is a part time one and, therefore, if a Heidelberg goes out of the league then a new team like Perth or Canberra can't afford to offer terms to that team's best players.

Maybe one or two will be picked up but the rest of them will drift back to State League or into retirement while the new clubs rely on a mainly local based player base.

So, the answer is not fewer but MORE.

I applaud David Hill for increasing the league to 14 clubs next season, although I would have applauded even louder if it had been sixteen. For the other simple reality in life is that you need derby games, and lots of them.

It takes two sets of fans to tango - and a derby crowd to set the turnstiles ringing.

Who cares what kind of a model basketball or baseball are, instead, we should be developing our own strategy.

I have always believed that soccer has the potential to be the major football code in every state except Victoria and South Australia within the next ten years. In those two Aussie Rules is the dominant code - and that is why Sydney is the soccer capital.

The '96 Olympics, France '98, Sydney 2000 and Japan/South Korea 2002 will supply our boffins with all the marketing back-up that they need.

Cut this editorial out and put it in your time capsule - see if I'm wrong. If I am then I'll doff my cap and buy you all drink.

If not then you'll be happy and I'll be able to retire to the coast in peace.

John White's IN OFF THE POST

Nic One, Benny

I am a 16-year-old kid - but I don't need to grow old to understand what is wrong with soccer in Australia.

I was reading your last issue of Inside Soccer and in particular a reader's letter entitled 'Oh No!!!'.

The writer was critical of having two NSL teams in the west of Sydney.

Why - because they are hot Greek sponsored clubs?

It is a disgrace to call our national body the 'A' SF it should be the Greek SF because there are at least six teams within the NSL with Greek following whilst others (like Wollongong, Newcastle etc) either have Greek presidents or a Greek coach - or fans.

Come on BENNY HILL, wake up, we've seen enough of your shows.

It's about time to start seeing ours.

Joe Randich
Bondi

(I don't quite agree with you Joe - and I'll confess, it took me a couple of reads to work out WHO you were calling 'Benny'.

I've had a lousy week - and you at least managed to give me a laugh, so I'm sending you off the MAIL ORDER MALL BEST READER'S prize. - John White).

Dear Catherine ...

How can you insult your readers so easily?

I also thought that John Harvey had some fair points and was appalled at your response to Catherine Hill in the last issue.

I also believe that the clubs have to go out and do more to market the game.

The ASF is going in the right direction but why can't the clubs mount TV advertising campaigns?

J Stokes
Cronulla

(Probably for the same reason as why I am so rude - money. The clubs just don't have it, but my editorial brief is to say what I really think - and I get paid for it, too.

I'll be the first to admit that John had a point - and I said so - but I DO get fed up with people who have no conception of running a club trying to tell those who do what their business is all about.

And I HATE anyone telling clubs that they have to change their name just because some bloody Anglo doesn't like it. - JW)

Australia Cup



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NSW 2620

LETTERS to John White are encouraged. However, they should normally be kept under two hundred words.

Inside Soccer reserves the right to alter, delete or edit any letter submitted for publication.

And be warned - if your letter is about politics, you may not like the answer you get!

I read about the Australia Cup in your last issue.

I currently coach a 14 year Belnorth First Division side and would be happy to compete at this tournament.

Clive Hopkins
Canberra

(Details on their way shortly, Clive. - JW)

Crowd Figures

Soccer Australia's boast that crowd figures are a lot higher than last season is debatable.

Crowd figures have been a bit like the budget deficit at the recent federal election - a bit rubbery to say the least.

Last week the national press showed that the official figure for the game at Bruce Stadium in Canberra was 1,145 - when some present counted a few hundred less than the official figure.

Morwell also have a reputation for being statistically challenged, but for the life of me I can't understand why the clubs cannot give accurate figures.

In last week's papers the crowds given by most clubs were estimates.

Are the clubs so badly managed that they are incapable of giving accurate attendance figures?

And, if we are trying to present a more professional image of soccer then why hasn't Soccer Australia stepped in and told them to give accurate figures to the press - or is it a case that they aren't really fair dinkum, either?

In regard to crowd figures, David Hill tends to use statistics like a drunk man uses a lamp-post - more for support than illumination.

Fred Leggett
Ingleburn

(Why don't you be a bit more straightforward....!

OK, you all know that I ain't an ASF fan.

I judge them by a simple rule and that is called World Cup qualification. We haven't qualified for two

decades - and as far as I am concerned that is two decades in the wilderness.

But let's be fair.

It isn't the clubs nor the ASF which is giving approximate crowd figures - it is the journalists.

Every Sunday night the ASF produce a media list which contains the acknowledged crowd figures.

If the media aren't professional enough to give those then so be it.

The clubs also give the press the figures at games but quite often a journalist has to publish by a certain deadline time and then, legitimately, uses a guesstimate.

I suspect though, that there are a few lazy journoes out there who just can't be bothered to ask.

But crowd figures have ALWAYS had a touch of fantasy.

My advice is to allow a leeway of about 10-15% for a truer reflection, although, of course, there are those clubs who are scrupulous with their figures.

But remember that Soccer Australia's comparisons are against previous year figures - which are also 10-15% fanciful, so the comparisons are more than valid. - John White)

Factors Aside

In regards to your reply to Jimmy Bryson in the second issue of Inside Soccer I would like to make a comment.

Jimmy Bryson's comments were perfectly justified.

Putting the ethnic factor aside, there are other reasons like convenience, travelling facilities, sense of belonging and attachment to a club in your area.

From whichever angle you look it doesn't make sense to have two clubs five minutes apart in a city which spreads over 100 km.

If it does make sense then you are not only rude

Otherwise great paper.
Congratulations!

Maurice Hawling
Oatley

(Knowing full well that, like a nagging wife, I will ALWAYS get the last word then you are also

Football has nothing to do with common sense nor logic.

It is a passion in which 22 silly and full grown men kick a bladder around cheered on by thousands of equally silly adults who often get soaked to the skin for their trouble.

And they have to pay for the privilege. You tell me the logic in that.

But the reality is that it is the GREATEST game in the world and that passion overcomes all "sense".

How far apart are Liverpool and Everton? Would YOU have told Bill Shankly that the Kop had no right to be there? I suspect not.

Forget your "sense" Maurice - and get your backside out to as many games as your passion allows. - JW)

Stylish Scot an enigma to his fans

A World Game Special



FEW PLAYERS in the modern game have been rated so complex as Graeme Souness.

He was Scotland's answer to Franz Beckenbauer, displaying all of the cool arrogance that the Kaiser did in his own hey-day for Bayern Munich and Germany.

Both could split a defence apart with one silver lined pass.

Both could control a game with apparently effortless ease.

Both had vision.

But Souness had something else, he had that toughness which made him different.

He was what the Scots call a hard man.

He was the BIG MAN.

Maybe it depends on who you supported; when he was a player at Anfield the Kop idolised him.

Don't tell them that he was a dirty bastard.

And when he pulled on the Dark Blue of Scotland in the same team as real greats like Gordon Strachan and Kenny Dalglish then he had his legion of admirers, too.

But he had those

who hated him - and hated him with a passion.

"Soucey just loved this club," said a member of the Liverpool boot room.

"When he was a player here the fans adored him.

"But he made a big mistake in coming back, because he had to be a different kind of person as a manager.

"He inherited a team which needed changing - and the fans hated him for doing it."

Souness brought in players like Neil Ruddock and Julian Dicks - the antipathy of what Kop-ites see as their type of player.

They tolerated Souness's hard play because he also had class, something that only Souness has seen in Ruddock and Dicks.

But maybe the real mark of his failure was the amount of red cards that players collected on the field when he was manager.

That maybe was a mirror of the unrest in the dressing room - because that sort of thing just didn't

happen at the club which was more intent on collecting silverware.

Souness himself received a ban from the bench.

He laid the foundations which still continue at the club today.

However, even there he couldn't

keep out of a stooshie and his verbals with Ally McCoist are now legendary.

One of his more famous exchanges with the player the fans lovingly call 'Super Ally' was when, as player/manager, he insulted McCoist after substituting him.

"You're the WORST player on the park," he reportedly said to the striker.

But somehow he failed to take his success as a player into the rough and tumble world of English Premier League football management.

There is no doubt that he transformed Glasgow Rangers from a European joke into a great club.

VISIT TO SYDNEY: *Inside Soccer* Editor Bruce Campbell with Graeme Souness during his visit to Sydney last January.

History will probably be kinder to him in the wake of his failure as Liverpool's manager.

It will probably recall that he had an impossible task in the wake of the Hillsborough disaster and the sensational walking out by Kenny Dalglish.

It might even say that his massive staff changes and player transfers were also justified.

It might even say that he was a great player whose class was laced with a bit of

steel.

But what it won't say is that Julian Dicks and Neil Ruddock were the sort of players that Liverpool should have bought.

Today Graeme Souness is in millionaires exile in Turkish football with Galatasaray.

However, he is just too big a talent to be lost to the *real* game forever.

There is a place for Graeme Souness in English football - it just hasn't been found yet.

because he seems incapable of tolerating any imperfection or failure.

As a player that was manifested in his brilliant play - and also in his, at times, dirty play.

Like the time when he broke a Romanian player's jaw with what he called "the best right hook I ever threw."

There was no doubt that he was tough.

There was always the suspicion that he WAS a filthy bastard - even amongst his army of fans.

Don't tell them that he was a dirty bastard.

by
Alex Cameron

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NSW

Corica slams under the counter transfer allegations

by
Ben Reid

STEVE Corica didn't miss the irony in the claims that he made the switch from Leicester to rival first division side Wolverhampton with the help of an unlicensed agent.

The former Marconi-Fairfield mid-fielder moved to the Wolves as part of a Stg1.1-million (\$A2.18 million) deal that also included

Australian international goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac, but soon found himself the target of a Football Association investigation.

So where does the irony come into play?

Well, to put it bluntly, Corica doesn't really trust players' agents, and has never used one in any transfer.

But even when faced with a possible fine and suspension Corica said he didn't

take the whole affair too seriously.

"The deal was made between myself and the Wolves, with no agents involved, so I knew I didn't have anything to worry about," he said.

"I prefer not to use an agent, as it can be difficult to know who to trust at this level.

"I've found that the best way to move is by just talking to other players, who have been there and done that and can offer a

lot of advice."

Now, with the switch to the Wolves behind him, and with an appearance against Scotland, Corica has a chance to put his name back in the head-lines for the right reasons.

"The last game I played for the Socceroos was against Ghana, which was almost a year ago, so I'm really looking forward to this game," he said.

"Every international

is tough, but we will always have a realistic chance against European countries like Scotland.

"The majority of

players in the Socceroos squad are based overseas, so

with a few games in

hand we're actually a

fair chance of making

the play-offs," he

said.

"Either way, games like this are a good hit-out for the side,

and give us more of

an idea about where

we stand

internationally."

standard between the two divisions."

Corica also said that having Kalac in the side had helped him settled into his new surroundings with a minimum of fuss.

"He's from the same country as me, and has been a good friend for a fair while, so it's good to have him along," he said.

"I still miss Australia a lot - it's a great country - but I'm a professional footballer and have a job to do."



Tartan Double

AUSTRALIAN fans won't have to wait another ten years for the Socceroos next date with the might of Scotland - thanks to a deal that the ASF has made with the Scottish Football Association.

As a pay back for Australia footing their own entire bill for this week's clash at Hampden Park the SFA has agreed to another date - and this time, it's Down Under.

Details of the fixture haven't been announced but it is further indication of the growing reputation that Australia has at international level.

Just two years ago Australia was told "no thanks" when they offered to host Scotland in a special pre-World Cup tournament which was to have featured countries which hadn't qualified for USA '94.



WRITE US off at your peril – and the fans at Bob Jane Stadium don't disagree one little bit.

With the big countdown to the Top Six really underway South Melbourne are firmly behind the eight ball – but then they are in a lot better position than they were just a few weeks ago.

But they have to win all the way home to do it.

Don't tell the Blues that they haven't a chance, because they'll keep on fighting to the end – just like they did last season when they snatched a Top Six position from the jaws of defeat.



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Telephone Number

Club

Clinic I wish to attend

please send to Sydney United SC, 223 Edensor Road, Edensor Park, NSW 2176. Tel: 823 6418

Smith injury hoodoo strikes

STAR Marconi defender Mike Smith finished his match – and his season also – against Melbourne Knights after only twelve minutes when he was sent crashing to the ground in agony.

The damage was done by a tackle from behind by Melbourne Knights' Ice Kutlesovski in what looked a clumsy, if unintentional, foul.

But for Smith it ended in a broken fibula bone in his right leg, the kind of injury which all players dread.

"I could hear it break even from the bench," said Manfred Schaefer.

"It was a tragic injury for a very valuable member of our team".

Smith was flown back to Sydney and rushed into a private hospital at Randwick where he underwent surgery last Tuesday.

A plate was inserted into his leg to help heal the break which was diagnosed by medical staff as "a clean break".

The only good thing to come out of it is that there seems little

chance of any complication because of the cleanliness of the break.

"Mike could score goals as well as defend and he really added something different to our team this season," added Schaefer.

"Everybody at the club is absolutely shattered."

This season, after missing the early games because of a back injury, Smith seemed to finally shake off his injury hoodoo.

That has seen him

recognised Mike Smith as one of the classiest players in the Ericsson Cup and it is no coincidence that the Stallions play to their potential when he is on fire.

But earlier on the tall defender encountered problems with his visa status which may yet see him forced to return to Scotland unless the Stallions can get him another extension.

It is an ironic twist of fate for a player whom Eddie Thomson has always kept a close eye on.



STAR STALLION: defender Mike Smith, now out for the rest of the season with a broken leg.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD STALLIONS SOCCER CLINIC

WHERE: Marconi Stadium, Bossley park

WHEN: Tuesday April 9th to Friday April 12th

TIME: 9am through to 12 noon

AGES: all ages boys and girls

LEVEL: all levels

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AGE

ADDRESS

P/CODE

(work)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (home)

POSITION

T SHIRT SIZE

SKILL LEVEL

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

I authorise the coaches and staff of Club Marconi to act for me, according to their best judgement, in any emergency requiring medical attention. I further release Club Marconi and staff from any and all liability for injury and illness incurred at the coaching clinic.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

SPECIAL FEATURES

COACHES

Manfred Schaefer and Lee Sterrey

&

the Galaxy of Marconi

Ericsson Cup

and

Women's Team stars



Nick Theos brings new confidence

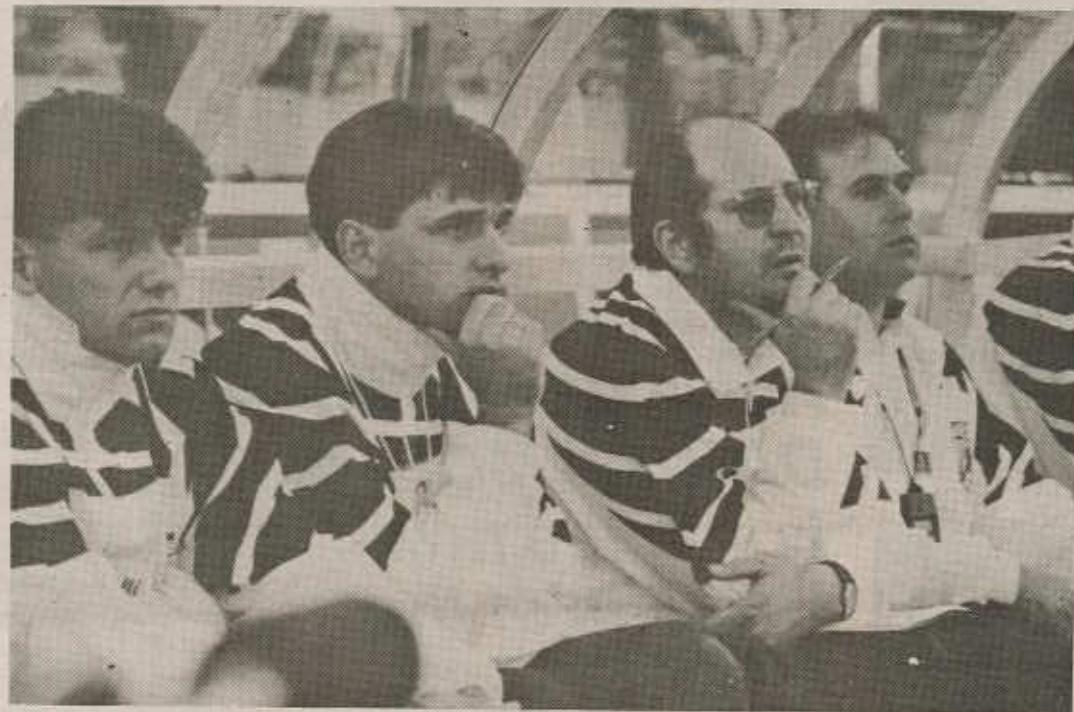
SINCE HE replaced Berti Mariani as coach down at Brandon Park, Nick Theos has instilled a new confidence in his team, one which has been lacking for some time.

"When Dave Ratcliffe was here everyone worked really hard," said one of the club's senior players. "But this season things were never right even from the start of the season. There were players here who just weren't pulling their weight."

That resulted in a disastrous slide to the foot of the Ericsson Cup and at one stage there were questions being raised about the future viability of the South Coast club.

As attendance figures plummeted the club made the big move to replace the coach that they had only started at the beginning of this season. Out went Berti Mariani and in came the relatively unknown Nick Theos.

But Theos has



Berti Mariani: claims that his side was unfit and lacked confidence

turned the club around and even if the results haven't quite done a U turn at least they are playing with more commitment.

"The club lacked discipline and fitness," said Theos in a radio interview.

"That was the first thing that I had to turn around. But I believe that there is a bit of talent at Wollongong."

One player who has consistently

played well - even during the disastrous early season run - is midfielder Matt Horsley.

The silky ball player with a touch of steel was drafted into Socceroo training last season but was ruled out of contention because it was felt he wasn't mobile enough.

Despite that he has always caught the eye in the Ericsson Cup, posing the question of why a

bigger club hasn't come in for him.

At 23 he still has plenty of time on his side.

But Theos knows full well that if he has any hopes for next season then he must retain players like Horsley.

And late talk is that the purse strings ARE being unleashed at Brandon Park with Morwell Falcons Sonny Sevin and Mike Reda transfer targets as Inside

Going Nowhere

RUMOURS flooding Sydney that Melbourne Knight Ollie Pondeljak was heading to the western suburbs have been hotly denied.

"Pondeljak is going nowhere," said a Melbourne Knights official of the twenty three year-old striker.

Pondeljak has recently returned to Australia after an unsuccessful trial period in Croatia with Segresta and at one time it looked as if Sydney United would step in to snap him up.

But Melbourne Knights have insisted on a transfer fee for their talented player - rejecting outright any possible loan deals.

That has kiboshed the chances of Pondeljak joining United - at least for this season.



SUNDAY SOCCER RAP

SYDNEY: BFM 88.7 10.00pm

CANBERRA: TRIPLE SSS FM 103.9 9.00pm

all the latest scores, tables & fixtures

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Hot Gun



He's not the biggest ... he's not the sharpest ... maybe he's not a lot of things. But what Adelaide City's DAMIAN MORI is - is the new Hot Gun of the Ericsson Cup.

"I don't care about records. All I want is to see Adelaide City win games - and if my goals help then that is what I am there for."

HEN Damian Mori broke Francis Awaritefe's fastest ever scoring record *Inside Soccer* caught up with the strike sensation.

We thought he would be over the moon - after all his 3 second goal against Sydney United was also a new WORLD record, earning him a place in the Guiness Book of Records and a brief tilt at world wide media stardom.

WRONG.
Simply put, the man they call 'frogger' just wasn't interested.

In fact, he looked almost bored with the whole question.

Almost laconically he replied: "I don't care about records.

"All I want is to see Adelaide City win games - and if my goals help then that is what I am there for."

So, when the Hindmarsh Kid hit that

4th minute tap in against South Melbourne, which put his name in the Australian record book for a second time this season, we couldn't get a volunteer amongst our reporters to ask him his feelings.

SBS did though, and he gave them the same kind of body swerve that he gave us before.

But we reckon that his now-familiar one figure running salute after he had scored that 25th goal tells the real story.

Because there isn't a footballer alive who doesn't get a buzz from the ball crashing into the netting.

Frogger, you haven't got us fooled - but we're still not game to ask you!



ROUND 1

2 v Canberra Cosmos (2-0) HOME 8th October

ROUND 2

1 v Wollongong (2-0) AWAY 15th October

ROUND 3

1 v South Melbourne (1-2) HOME 18th October

ROUND 6

1 v West Adelaide (2-1) AWAY 5th November

ROUND 7 (deferred match)

2 v Brisbane Strikers (6-0) HOME 28th Nov

ROUND 10

2 v Morwell Falcons (4-0) AWAY 2nd Dec

ROUND 11*

2 v Sydney United (2-0) HOME 6th December

ROUND 13

1 v Wollongong City (1-0) HOME 17th Dec

ROUND 16

1 v Marconi (2-4) AWAY 29th December

ROUND 21

3 v Morwell Falcons (5-0) HOME 7th Feb

ROUND 22

1 v Sydney United (2-2) AWAY 2nd March

ROUND 19 (deferred match)

2 v Newcastle Breakers (2-1) HOME 5th March

ROUND 23

2 v Canberra Cosmos (6-0) HOME 10th March

ROUND

2 v South Melbourne (2-1) HOME 17th March



INSIDE SOCCER

newspaper talk for TOP SOCCER

SCORELINE

Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP LEADING SCORERS

25	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
17	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
14	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
14	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
11	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
10	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
10	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
9	Vaughan COVENY (South Melbourne)
9	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
9	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
8	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
7	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
7	Matthew BINGLEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
7	Pablo CARDZOZO (West Adelaide)
7	Ivan KELIC (South Melbourne)
7	Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)
7	Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
7	Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)
7	Paul TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne)
7	David ZDRILIC (Sydney United)
6	Craig FOSTER (Adelaide City)
6	Mario JERMEN (Wollongong City)
6	Marko PERINOVIC (Canberra Cosmos)
6	Tom PONDELJAK (Melbourne Knights)
6	Kimon TALIADOROS (UTS Olympic)
5	Troy HALPIN (Newcastle Breakers)
5	Manis LAMOND (Sydney United)
5	David LOWE (Newcastle Breakers)
5	Brad MALONEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
5	Ante MILICIC (Sydney United)
5	Michael MUSITANO (Canberra Cosmos)
5	Mike SMITH (Marconi-Fairfield)
5	Clayton ZANE (Newcastle Breakers)
4	Ross ALOISI (West Adelaide)
4	Lachlan ARMSTRONG (Canberra Cosmos)
4	Shaun BABIC (Sydney United)
4	Brian BOTHWELL (Morwell Falcons)
4	Michael CURCIJA (South Melbourne)
4	Bill DAMIANOS (South Melbourne)
4	Robbie HOOKER (West Adelaide)
4	Andrew MARTH (Melbourne Knights)
4	Cyrille NDONGO-KELLER (West Adelaide)
4	Tony POPOVIC (Sydney United)
4	Brendan RENAUD (Marconi-Fairfield)
3	Alex CASTRO (Canberra Cosmos)
3	Sean CRANNEY (Brisbane Strikers)
3	Nathan DAY (West Adelaide)
3	Aytec GENC (Sydney United)
3	Eric HRISTODOULOU (Marconi-Fairfield)
3	Ice KUTLESOVSKI (Melbourne Knights)
3	Lube LAPANSKY (Melbourne Knights)
3	Tony LEMEZINA (Canberra Cosmos)
3	Robbie MARKOVAC (Sydney United)
3	John MARKOVSKI (Melbourne Knights)
3	Esala MASI (Morwell Falcons)
3	Joe MULLEN (Adelaide City)
3	Steve PANOPoulos (South Melbourne)
3	Chris ZORICICH (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Ayton ANDRIOLI (West Adelaide)
2	Walter ARDONE (UTS Olympic)
2	Elias AUGERINOS (UTS Olympic)
2	Mark BATTISTIN (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Damian BROWN (Newcastle Breakers)
2	Bradley DITTON (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Jason DUNN (Canberra Cosmos)
2	Alan HUNTER (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Norman KELLY (Canberra Cosmos)
2	Richard LLOYD (Wollongong Wolves)
2	Nick MEREDITH (UTS Olympic)
2	Scott MILLER (Morwell Falcons)
2	Lupcho NAUMOVSKI (Wollongong City)
2	Angelo PETRATOS (Wollongong Wolves)
2	Derek POIMER (UTS Olympic)
2	Jason POLAK (Brisbane Strikers)

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 26

Friday 22 March

WOLLONGONG CITY 1 SYDNEY UNITED 1
Perenich 9 Genc 17

Att: 3,002

Referee: C Diomis

Saturday 23 March

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 NEWCASTLE BRK'RS 2
Hunter 38, Farina 63, 89 Sprod 22, Zane 83

Att: 3,615

Ref: J Papanicolas

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 4

Harper 10, Awaritefe 13

Bingley 49, Renaud 78

Att: 4,015

Referee: S Micallef

Sunday 24 March

UTS OLYMPIC 1 ADELAIDE CITY 1
Meredith 61 Hassell 37

Att: 5,568

Referee: G Connolly

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3

Curcija 33, Coveny 40, 55 CANBERRA COSMOS 2

Att: 4,169

Referee: W Dade

WEST ADELAIDE 1

Andrioli 63 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

Att: 5,182

Referee: E Lennie

ROUND 27 (split round)

Wednesday 20 March

SYDNEY UNITED 3 NEWCASTLE BRK'RS 0
Genc 10, Lamond 34,

Zdrilic 68

Att: 2,918

Referee: B Hugo

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

Spiteri 58, 84 BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Att: 2,145

Referee: J Fraser

ROUND 24 (deferred match)

Wednesday 20 March

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 MORWELL FALCONS 2
Curcija 55, Coveny 82, 89 Miller 43, Masi 60

Att: 4,873

Referee: E Brazzale

ROUND 25

Friday 15 March

NEWCASTLE BRK'RS 0

Att: 3,245

Ref: M Shield

Saturday 16 March

CANBERRA COSMOS 1 WOLLONGONG CITY 0

Perinovich 26

Att: 1,145

Ref: D Crawford

SYDNEY UNITED 1

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	26	15	6	5	49	26	51
UTS Olympic	26	13	7	6	45	33	46
Sydney United	27	11	11	5	37	24	44
Melbourne Knights	27	12	8	7	30	18	44
Brisbane Strikers	27	13	5	9	42	32	44
West Adelaide	26	13	4	9	39	31	43
Adelaide City	26	11	7	8	49	35	40
South Melbourne	26	10	4	12	41	46	34
Morwell Falcons	26	8	6	12	30	49	30
Canberra Cosmos	26	6	9	11	41	50	27
Newcastle Breakers	27	4	5	18	32	62	17
Wollongong City	26	4	4	18	25	54	16

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE - NORTH

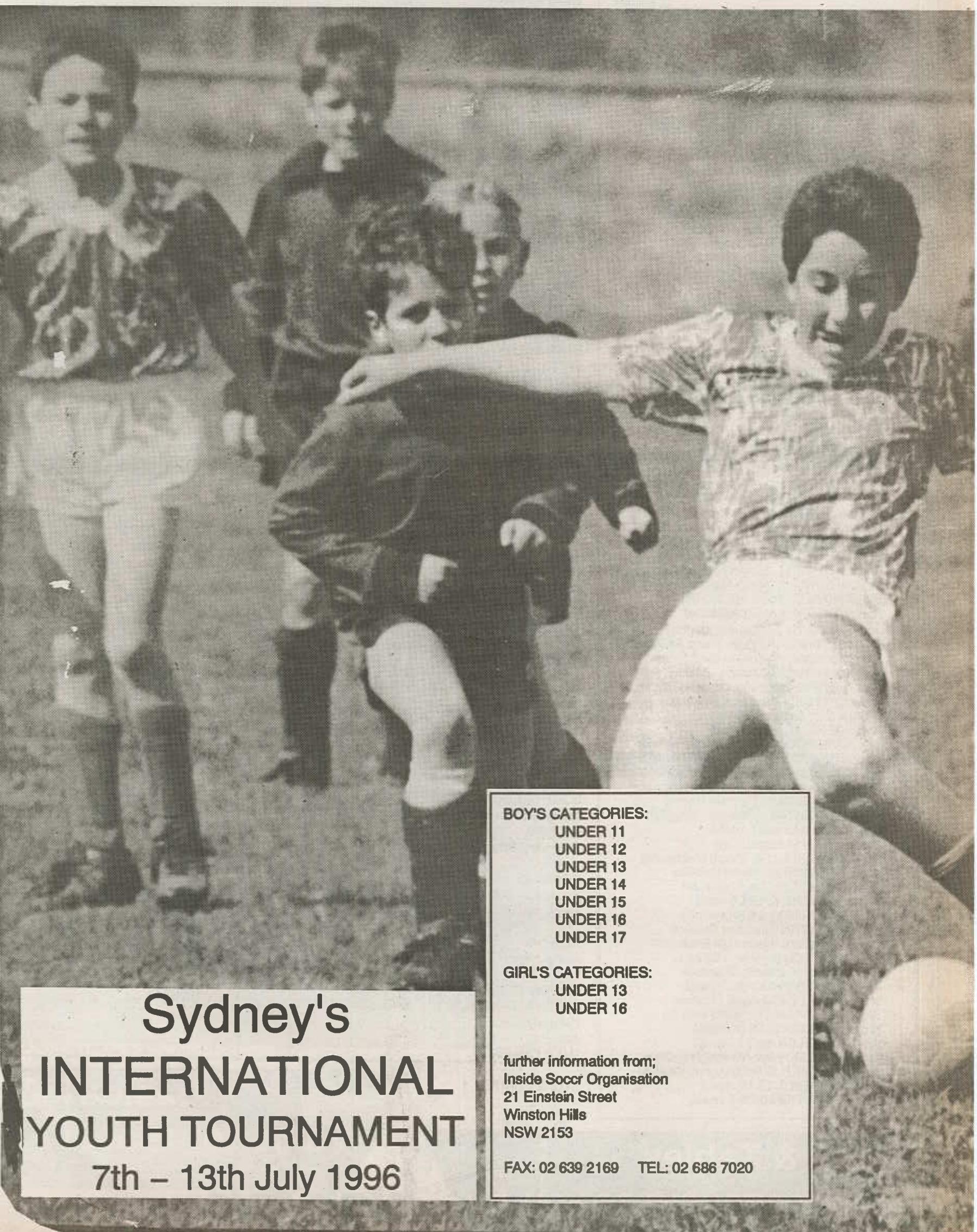
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	26	19	2	5	79	19	59
AIS	26	17	2	7	78	37	53
Sydney United	27	17	2	8	57	38	53
UTS Olympic	26	13	6	7	54	31	45
ACT Academy	25	13	4	8	49	46	43
Wollongong City	25	12	4	9	54	49	40
Qld Academy	24	11	3	10	59	37	36
Parramatta Eagles	26	9	8	9	45	44	35
Newcastle Breakers	27	9	3	15	38	52	30
Blacktown City	24	5	5	14	35	79	20
NSW ITC	24	3	1	20	24	85	10
St George	22	2	2	18	19	74	8

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NORTHERN COLTS LEAGUE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
MacArthur Rams	16	12	2	0	2	40	13	40
Illawarra	15	10	2	0	3	35	13	34
Central Coast	17	8	4	0	5	38	36	32
UTS Olympic	16	10	0	1	5	22	10	31
Warringah	17	7	5	0	5	28	19	31
Parramatta	15	8	3	0	4	24	25	30
Bankstown	17	7	3	1	6	37	26	28
Bonnyrigg	17	8	2	0	7	27	28	28
Sydney United								

Australia



Sydney's
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH TOURNAMENT
7th - 13th July 1996

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UNDER 11
UNDER 12
UNDER 13
UNDER 14
UNDER 15
UNDER 16
UNDER 17

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UNDER 13
UNDER 16

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Cup

YOUTH soccer tournaments have exploded all over the world, all over the world, that is, except for Australia.

In the past they have been generally low key affairs with the one notable exception being the Kanga Cup, now held in Canberra.

But now, ISO brings you THE AUSTRALIA CUP – held in Sydney during the July school holidays and an event not to be missed by any junior soccer enthusiast.

Sydney is acknowledged as the finest deep water harbour in the world and because of that, and its many other fabulous tourist attractions, it is a mecca for holiday makers – from Australia and overseas.

That is the beauty of the AUSTRALIA CUP – a holiday in Sydney, and football too!

Fuller details on the event will be available in shortly but the event has the endorsement of RALE RASIC who piloted Australia to their one and only World Cup finals in 1974.

"The format is exciting and is sure to be a winner with all the young boys who play," says Rale.

"Our future is in youth football – which is why I spend so much of my own time in that very important area.

"I would recommend that any team manager or coach who is serious about his football contacts the organisers for more information."

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WORLD CUP coach Rale Rasic has designed a programme for the special needs of the Australian player, a result of 30 years of teaching and international coaching experience.

The Academy's Head Coaches have also brought with them a variety in age, background and experience, producing a unique blend of techniques and dynamic coaching styles – all designed to challenge a player's abilities and help them reach their highest potential.



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The Academy has intensive training schools for those players who are serious about their game. Player numbers are limited and selection/invitation is based on a strict criteria.



INSIDE SOCCER
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SCORELINE



NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUES

NORTHERN DIVISION NYL (Scheinflug Cup)

Round 27

Sydney United 1 Newcastle Breakers 0

Round 26

Wollongong 1	Sydney United 1
Parramatta Eagles 2	ACT Academy 2
QAS 2	Newcastle 0
Marconi 5	Blacktown City 0
St George 0	AIS 0
UTS Olympic 2	NSW ITC 0

Round 25

Newcastle	1	St George	1
Act Academy	3	Wollongong City	0
Australian Institute	0	Marconi-Fairfield	3
Sydney United	2	Queensland Academy	2
NSW ITC	1	Parramatta Eagles	1
Blacktown City	0	UTS Olympic	1

Round 14 (deferred match)

Queensland Academy .5 Sydney United 1

SOUTHERN DIVISION NYL

Springvale City	2	South Melbourne	5
Morwell	1	VIS	1
North Geelong	0	Bulleen	1
Green Gully	4	Port Melbourne	0
Melbourne Knights	5	Altona Magic	0

NORTHERN COLTS LEAGUE (Graham Arnold Cup)

Round 17

Central Coast	2	Bonnyrigg	0
Illawarra	0	MacArthur Rams	1
Leichhardt Tigers	1	Sydney United	2
UTS Olympic P		Rockdale City P	
Warringah Dolphins	1	Canterbury	1
Parramatta Eagles	2	Sutherland	0
Adamstown Rosebud	1	Bankstown City	5

Round 16

Central Coast	4	Bankstown City	3
MacArthur Rams	6	Adamstown Rosebud	1
Bonnyrigg	3	Leichhardt Tigers	0
Sydney United	1	UTS Olympic	2
Rockdale City	0	Warringah Dolphins	2
Canterbury	4	Parramatta Eagles	1
Sutherland	0	Illawarra	5

Statistics compiled by George Johnstone

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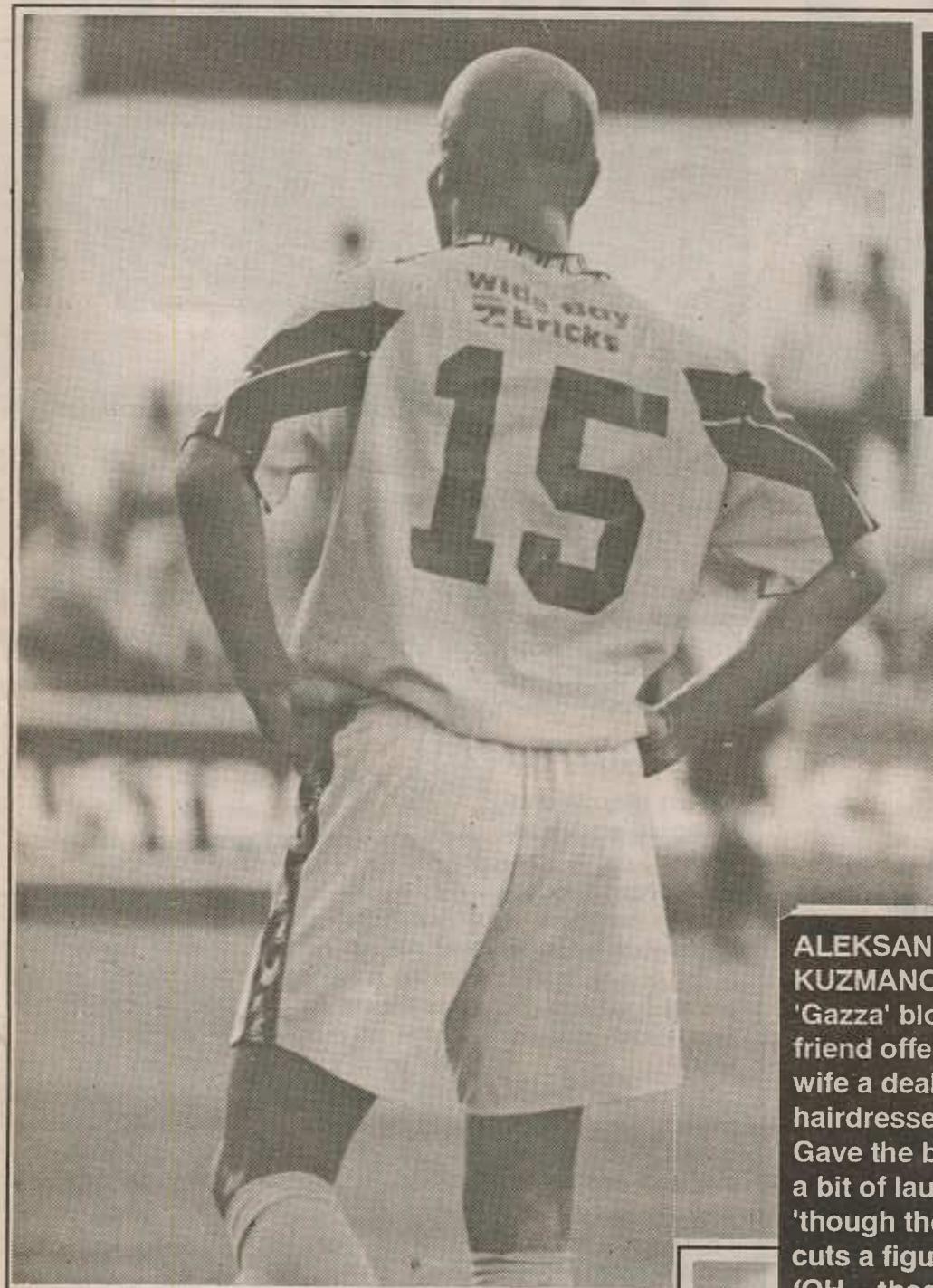
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hair today



FRANCIS AWARITEFE (above right) set the trend with his stylish dreadlocks but Brisbane Striker ANDY BRAYSHAW had the rule makers scuttling around for their books with his UHLSPORT look. Hair today – gone tomorrow, who knows, but the Ericsson Cup soccer players prove that they have style – on and off the pitch.



ALEKSANDER KUZMANOVIC got his 'Gazza' blond style after a friend offered him and his wife a deal in a trendy hairdressers. Gave the boys at Bob Jane a bit of laugh – even 'though the classy Kuzza cuts a figure on the pitch (OH – those lousy puns!).



Inside Soccer brings you all the big stories – told by the biggest names in the business



A NEW STAR ON THE SCENE: Ivan Zelic rises above Francis Awaritefe, originally a British import, in a recent UTS Olympic-Marconi derby. But should the game import more players?

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Bring in the imports

STRIKER

with

Adrian Alston



A QUESTION which everyone seems to be asking at the moment is "should we have more imported players in the National League?"

Some people say no, let's play our own young players and let them get the experience needed to make the grade.

I have always been of the opinion that if you are good enough then you are also old enough.

Too many times players are kept behind because of their age and left in youth grade.

But there is no way that a talented young player will improve by playing in his own age group for too long.

The speed and physical attributes needed for the big league will only come one way - by playing with and against the best players available.

This gets back to the argument of imports.

Over the years Australia has brought out many fine players to play in either State or National Leagues and, in my opinion, our soccer has

It's a game of opinions - and in my opinion first past the post are the real champions.

developed so much over the years just from the presence of these players.

But at the moment all we seem to do is

export players to the rest of the world.

If all the best leagues in Europe have to import footballers then I am quite sure that Australia needs to as well.

Even second or third division professionals would be of great value to our youngsters.

I think that every club should have at least two from overseas - and I don't mean just British players.

We need a good variety of player with different styles.

I must say that the standard of some of our stadiums at the moment is excellent.

Marconi, for example, is first class

and if a player doesn't perform on that playing surface then he shouldn't be playing at all.

Anyway, let's have some foresight and bring some quality players over to play alongside our own very good young players - and everyone will benefit.

Most of all, our supporters.

Just as a footnote; congratulations to my old team-mate, Manfred Schaefer.

His team is racing ahead in the League and I reckon that they are going to be very hard to catch.

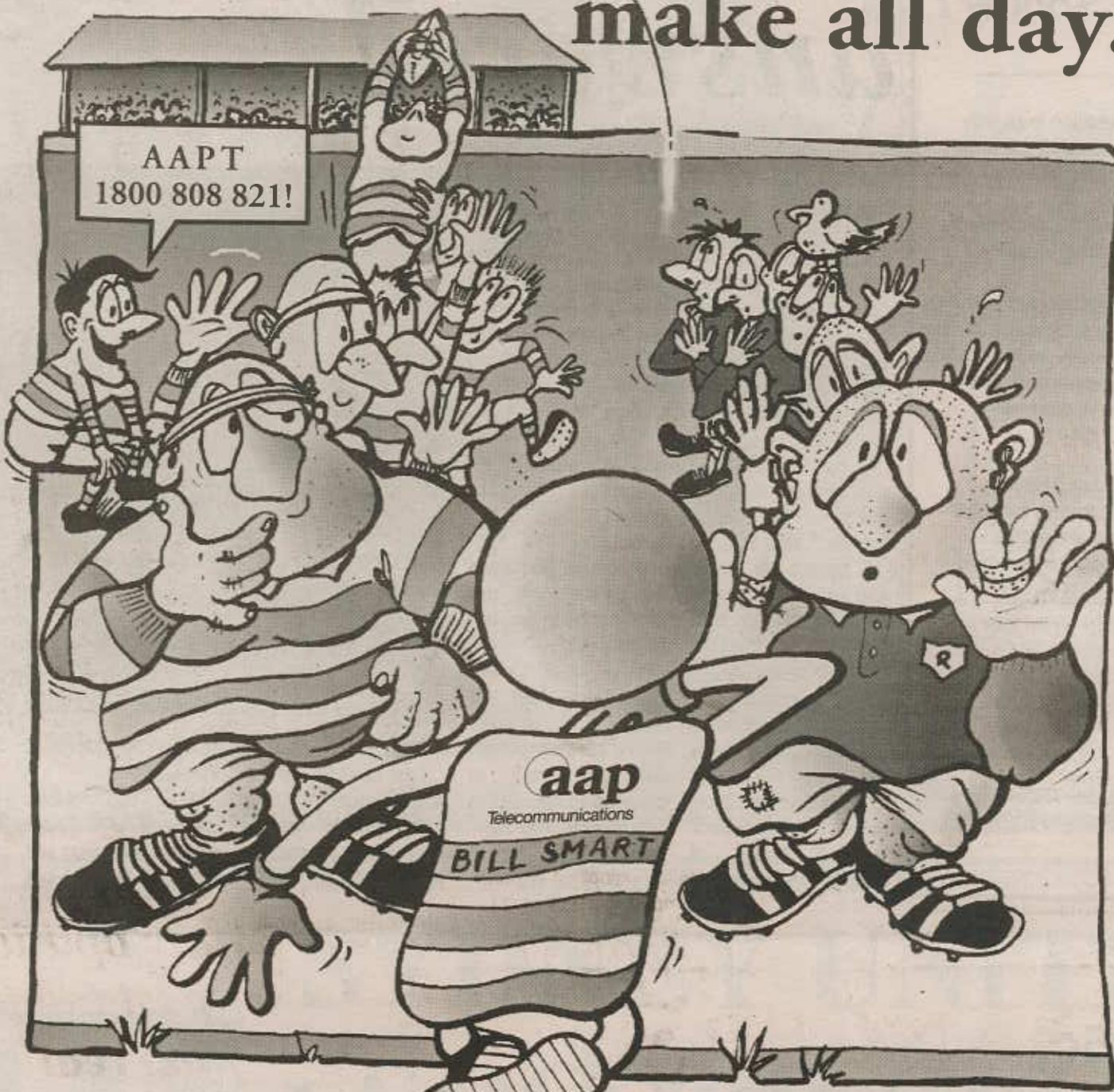
In my opinion, Manfred, first past the post are the real champions.

The Grand Final is just a bonus.

ANYWAY; until the next time - all the best.

Noddy

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NEXT ISSUE IN *Inside Soccer*

THAT CHAT with George Negus - it is well worth waiting for
STUDS UP - is there a place for the Aussie fanzine
JOHN WHITE - the letters are *really* starting to pile up now
BIG NAMES, BIG STORIES
THE TARTAN REVIEW
no wonder EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT IT



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ALL ENQUIRIES WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE

Culina question answered

Sydney United Soccer Club president Ivan Simic has scotched a recent story in a Sydney daily paper which said that coach Branko Culina (pictured right) was on the verge of being replaced.

"I can assure you that Branko is in no danger of being sacked," said Simic.

"The story isn't true and I can personally guarantee that Branko's contract at this club is secure."

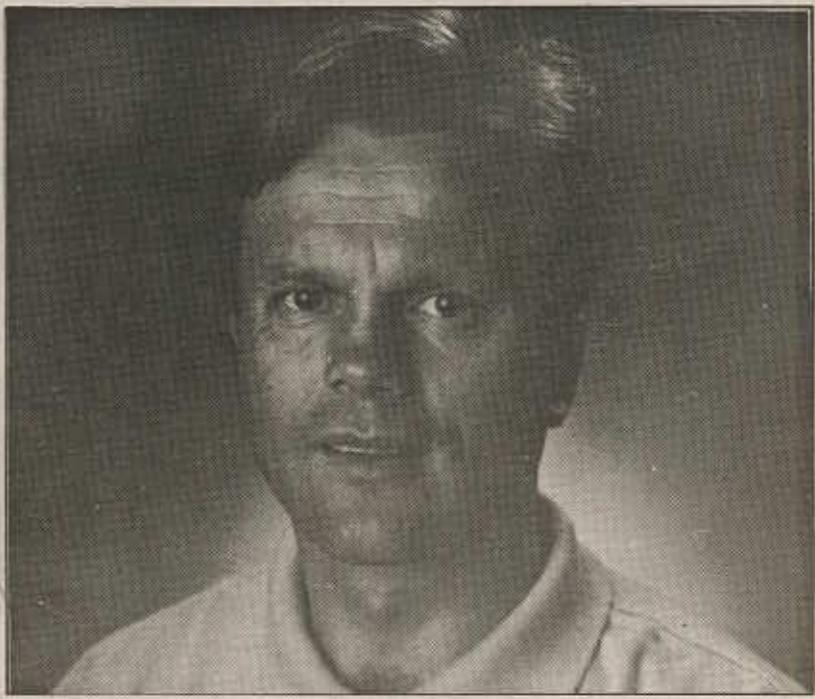
That is good news for the coach who has worked miracles with his young squad to produce, on their day, the most exciting brand of football in the league.

And lately they have been hitting top form in patches - like the recent game against West Adelaide when they hit patches of brilliance, something which pleased Culina.

"We didn't play as well as we could," he admitted, "but at times it was really good."

"It was a good win for us and we are proving what we are capable of."

Now that Culina has been given an assurance of his future he can get on with the task of cementing the club's place in the Top Six - and aiming for a Grand Final appear-



ance.

Last season his bid for first season glory was halted in a dramatic match against South Mel-

bourne at Marconi Stadium.

Now the public stance over Culina's position as coach will allow him to bring out

the best in his players - with his target clearly being a spot in the Grand Final.

Spend 25c, and turn your spectators into supporters

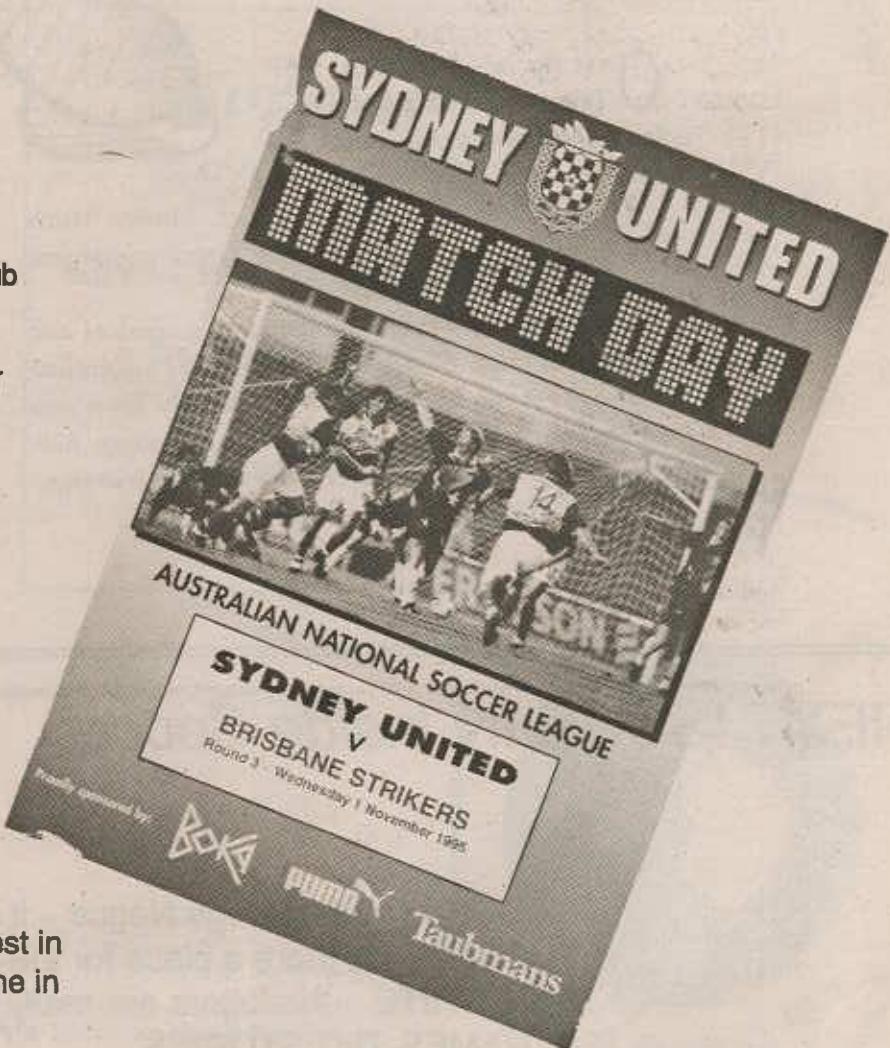
That's all it takes - plus a few minutes of your time and you could have a club magazine which is the envy of the other teams in your league.

Over the last year Duntroon Publishing & Marketing has published, edited or designed and edited;

The Top Six series magazine
The Johnnie Walker Cup final magazine
Soccer Australia
Australia v Ghana
Olyroos v Japan
Sydney United's Match Day
Morwell Falcons Falcon Soccer
South Melbourne's *In Blue & White*
Marconi-Fairfield's *Marconi Football*
Kookaburra Rugby

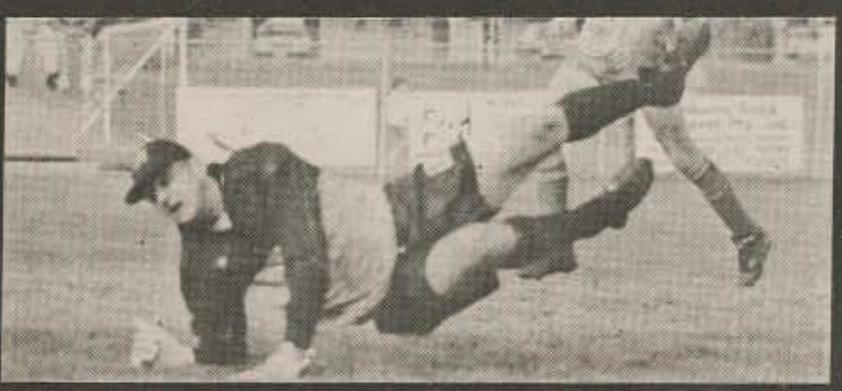
and that's just in a year!

FIND OUT WHY STUDS UP rates *Marconi Football* as "easily the best in the A League" or why SBS named *Match Day* "the best club magazine in Australia."



ENQUIRIES: Bruce Campbell (06) 299 2232

TUNE IN ... PLUG IN ... or just get down to the ground



Wednesday 27 March

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am
Spanish League GALAXY 4.30pm
UEFA Cup Bordeaux v AC Milan GALAXY 8.30pm
Soccer Hall of Fame GALAXY 10.00pm
ERICSSON CUP Wollongong City v South Melbourne
Canberra Cosmos v UTS Olympic
Morwell Falcons v West Adelaide
Adelaide City v Marconi-Fairfield

Thursday 28 March

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER Scotland v Australia LIVE from Glasgow, SBS 6am
Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am
Friday 29 March
Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am
Premier Goals GALAXY 7.00pm
Futbol Mundial GALAXY 9.30pm
German League GALAXY 10.00pm
ERICSSON CUP Newcastle Breakers v Melbourne Knights

Saturday 30 March

Futbol Mundial GALAXY, 11.30 am
Scottish League GALAXY, 12 noon
World Soccer SBS, 4.00pm
Match of the Day, Radio BFM 6.30pm
ECWC Paris St Germain v Parma GALAXY 10.30pm
English Soccer, Radio 2KY 11.30pm
ERICSSON CUP

Brisbane Strikers v Morwell Falcons
Marconi-Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos

Sunday 31 March

English Premier League, ABC 10.00am
On The Ball SBS, 11.30am
Asian Soccer GALAXY 12.30am
Sunday Soccer Rap, Triple SSS 103.9 FM, 9pm
FA Cup Preview GALAXY 9.00pm
Sunday Soccer Rap, BFM 88.7, 10pm
FA Cup semi live GALAXY 10.30pm
ERICSSON CUP

South Melbourne v Sydney United
UTS Olympic v Wollongong City
West Adelaide v Adelaide City

Monday 1 April



OPTUS TV's Robbie Wheatley & Berti Mariani

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Ericsson Cup Soccer, SBS 7.30pm

English Premier League ABC 10.30pm

Tuesday 2 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am
Boots 'n' Balls, Triple SSS Radio FM 103.9, 8.20am

Wednesday 3 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Thursday 4 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Friday 5 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Premier Goals GALAXY 7.00pm

Futbol Mundial GALAXY 9.30pm

German League GALAXY 10.00pm

Saturday 6 April

Futbol Mundial GALAXY, 11.30am

Scottish League GALAXY, 12 noon

World Soccer SBS, 4.30pm

Match of the Day, Radio BFM, 6.30pm

English Soccer, Radio 2KY 11.30pm

ERICSSON CUP

Adelaide City v Brisbane Strikers

Canberra Cosmos v West Adelaide

South Melbourne v UTS Olympic

Morwell Falcons v Newcastle Breakers

Sydney United v Melbourne Knights

Wollongong City v Marconi-Fairfield

Sunday 7 April

English Premier League, ABC 10.00am

On The Ball SBS, 11.30am

Sunday Soccer Rap, Triple SSS 103.9 FM, 9pm

Sunday Soccer Rap, BFM 88.7, 10pm

Monday 8 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Ericsson Cup Soccer, SBS 7.30pm

English Premier League, ABC 10.30pm

ERICSSON CUP

Newcastle Breakers v Adelaide City

Marconi-Fairfield v South Melbourne

Brisbane Strikers v Canberra Cosmos

UTS Olympic v Sydney United

West Adelaide v Wollongong City

Melbourne Knights v Morwell Falcons

Tuesday 9 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Wednesday 10 April

Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.00am

Spanish League GALAXY 4.30pm

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Boot 'n' Balls

Match of the Day

Sunday Soccer Rap

THREE OF THE VERY BEST ON SOCCER RADIO

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Market forces dictating Australian soccer's future

ALL OVER the world people in pubs, clubs and at home argue about who was the greatest player of all time - or is.

It's often a generational choice with players like Di Stefano and Puskas getting votes, or even a cultural choice with selections such as Charlton, Best, Beckenbauer or Cruyff.

People would always get a few votes and modern youngsters would, no doubt, choose the great Diego.

However, if you polled the world's leading professionals there is a good chance that they would make the surprise choice of Jean Marc Bosman.

For this self proclaimed 'average' footballer from Belgium has revolutionised the game far

Steve Darby's WORLD of SOCCER

proudly brought to you by

RAM



more than Havelange, Blatter and all the rest of the FIFA hierarchy put together.

His actions have the potential to make many players richer but at the same time make it a lot harder to become a professional player.

Many would argue that due to the longevity of a football career, or rather the lack of it, that this is not an unreasonable scenario.

In simple terms, Bosman challenged the Belgian transfer system - which in Australian terms was both a restraint of

trade and illegal, and in colloquial terms, a slave trade.

Every country has its own unique transfer system and Belgium had perhaps the most archaic methods which allowed players to be

kept out of the game and often having to accept lower wages.

Bosman had completed his two year contract at Liege and was offered a new one at a quarter of his old wage.

When he refused to sign he was put on the transfer list with a price that no sane club would pay and hence was stopped

from earning his living by playing football.

There are many Australian players who have returned from Belgium with horrific tales of transfer dealings also.

Bosman decided that football law should not be above civil law and after a myriad of trials he ended up in the ultimate court in Europe, the European Court of Justice - which found in his favour.

The Australian system of transfers and compensation is by far a more fair and equitable system.

The future for the exceptional young Australian player is now awesome

ZELJKO KALAC: experienced difficulties in signing for an English club because of his heritage



The Bosman Judgement

In layman's terms means that; Players out of contract no longer have a transfer fee on their heads. Clubs no longer have the three 'foreigner' rule imposed on them in competition (commonly called the 'three plus two' rule, with the two being assimilated players who have lived in the country for five years and had come through the club's youth team).

ruling means that when a player (based in any country belonging to the EEC) completes his contract then he is free to go to Lazio or Everton - or whichever club makes him the best offer.

In normal terms, that doesn't sound like such an outlandish concept.

If any other professional leaves their company for a better offer then a transfer fee isn't paid - nor is one even conceived.

However, the culture of football was one in which the players were seen as chattels and belonging to their owners, the clubs.

In civilised societies those days are gone.

The second ruling means that the rich

teams of Europe, such as AC Milan, Panathinaikos and Manchester United, can field teams made up of the best players in the world without any locals in the team.

This has the exciting connotation of Super teams but may also mean the demise of the smaller professional clubs.

A short term reality - but in the long term, what is going to replace the breeding ground of young players, the local lower division club?

Such clubs will always exist and the game will never die but amateur clubs will not produce as good a player as a professional club and the big clubs may have to generate feeder clubs and better youth development programmes.

However, it must be remembered that the European Court of Justice only has power over the

nations which are aligned to the Common Market.

Therefore, if an Italian or a Greek wants to play in England then these labour rules apply but if a Macedonian, Australian or African wants to play in the same country then the ruling body of that country may still impose labour restrictions to protect their citizens.

That is why it was easy for Andrew Bernal (Spanish), Steve Corica (Italian) and Carl Veart (English) to obtain positions in England while at the same time it was difficult for Aussies such as Zeljko Kalac (Croatian) and others who have no European heritage.

Australians without any European heritage find it even more difficult to obtain a club in Europe unless they are established internationals and considered an attraction to the game in that country.

In the case of England, where most Aussie expats are playing, the rule is that a player must have played at least 75% of his country's internationals in the previous two years.

There is no longer any mythical number of caps to achieve - it is basically a percentage.

In terms of the Bosman case there are no binding rules for Australia and until someone challenges the transfer system in the Australian courts, and the European decision is seen as a precedent, then the Australian soccer hierarchy is free to implement its own system which it does in conjunction with the Players Union input.

In essence, a player in contract cannot leave his club to go to another club unless a transfer fee is paid by the buying club, as otherwise that player would be breaching contract.

Both the club and the player, however, must fulfil all of the terms of the contract.

Ericsson Cup clubs are now developing an excellent reputation for treating players as professionals, and the number of player disputes is rapidly diminishing.

Six months before a player concludes his contract he is allowed to negotiate and sign for another club as long as this does not interfere with his playing commitments with his present club.

The player can then play for his new club when his contract is completed and both clubs must agree on a compensation fee for the training and development of the player.

If the clubs cannot agree then the case goes to an independent tribunal

and both clubs must abide by the set fee.

If a player is out of contract then he can sign for whichever club he wishes and the compensation scenario outlined previously is applied.

The compensation scenario is a fair item because if a player such as Kalac (Sydney United) or Okon (Marconi) is transferred to another club then those clubs who have had these players from the beginnings of their careers have made a financial investment in their training.

The tribunal takes into account such factors as age, years at the club and international honours.

It consists of an independent chairperson, a Players Union representative and a Soccer Australia representative.

In non-legal terms there are great ramifications for Australian players by

the changes to the transfer system.

Firstly, if a player does not have European Union heritage, or is not an established international then it is going to be nearly impossible to get a contract with an EEC club.

Also, as European players will now be a lot cheaper than the days of transfer fees coming into Australian clubs may disappear - except for exceptionally talented players who are on long term contracts to their Australian clubs.

The reality of the present system of player movement is that in the future the intelligent Ericsson Cup clubs will invest in quality youth development programmes with good coaches and sign the products of this programme to long term contracts.

This will mean stability at the club in the playing staff and a greater chance of financial reward through the compensation system if the player decides to move clubs.

The game is changing - as it had to, both on and off the pitch.

Demands are made on players to become better athletes and to become public role models - and this has been caused by the huge injection of finance into the game.

The size of football on a world wide scale, and the finance it generates, makes the recent rugby league case laughable on the big stage.

The future for the exceptional young Australian player is now awesome, but it is going to be harder to become a professional footballer in Australia as market forces will dictate and the big clubs become bigger.

Who knows what will be the long term effects of the Bosman case - but I'll still pick Gordon Banks as my choice for best ever player.

They've got the best fans in the league but Frank Arok wants to turn his South Melbourne home into a

GRAVEYARD

NOTHING IS impossible.

Just ask South Melbourne coach Frank Arok, a realist in a world of sporting fantasy - yet one who decided even when his Blues were perched on the bottom spot of the Ericsson Cup that the ball game wasn't over.

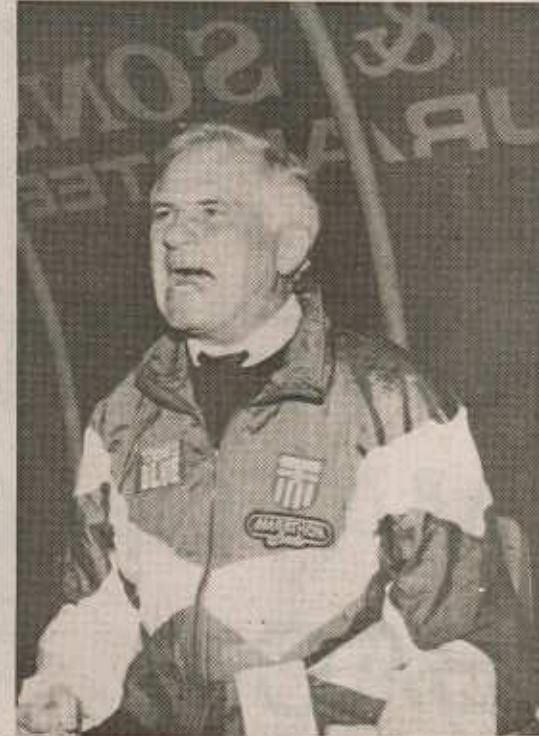
"If we could string together another three good results then we would be right up there in the Top Six," he says. But with Arok it isn't so much what he says but, rather, how he says it.

He says it with an air of self belief, a belief born out of living in the jaws of unpredictability that is what passes for pro

soccer in Australia.

South Melbourne aren't in the Top Six, although they still have a chance if they can string together that sequence, but in a league where the top team gets beaten by the bottom team then stringing together a few wins isn't an impossible task for the Blues.

Arok also believes



in the ability of his side to do just that, not only the mathematics of life in the A League.

"With every game we are seeing more and more stability in the side," he reminds us.

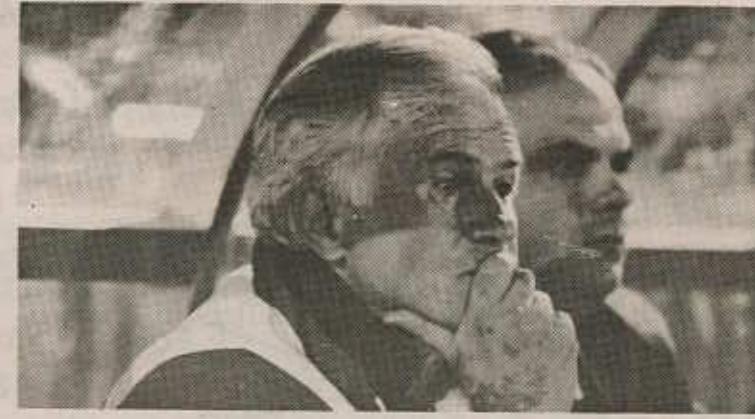
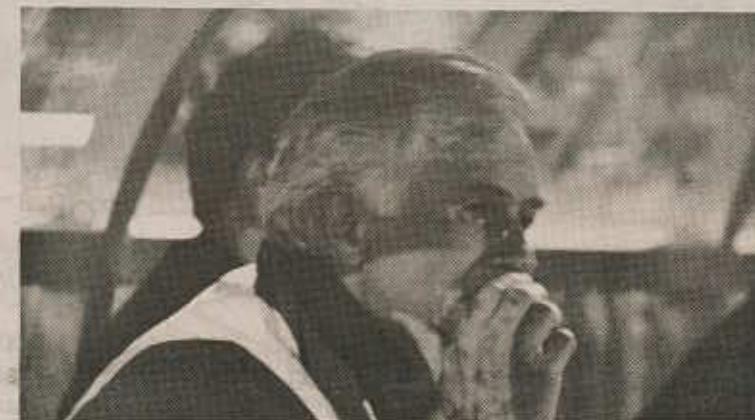
"I think that this team can be good enough to get South Melbourne there, and most importantly we aren't conceding

a graveyard for visiting teams.

"We have the fans to make it such a place and so far they have been just fantastic.

"The fans give us such an incredible advantage because of the atmosphere here.

"Our fans have really stuck by us and every player would do everything poss-



But with Arok it isn't so much what he says but, rather, HOW he says it.

those stupid goals anymore.

"As long as we stop that then we have a chance."

The move into their plush new Bob Jane Stadium has given the club some of its credibility back and Arok has plans to make it an uncomfortable place for teams to visit.

"I want to make Bob Jane Stadium a place where no team wants to come," he says.

"I want to make this

ible to please them because they are simply the best.

"Our stadium is luxury.

"We have the best ground, we have the best supporters - and we are going to have the best team.

"South Melbourne is going to make soccer history."

This season's Top Six might be too soon for the Arok prophecy - although he just loves to come back as the under-dog.

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YOUR MATCH OF THE DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday March 30
Marconi–Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos
LIVE from Marconi Stadium

Saturday April 6
South Melbourne v UTS Olympic
LIVE from the Bob Jane Stadium

Saturday April 13
Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle Breakers
LIVE from Bruce Stadium

Saturday 21 April
Sydney United v Marconi
LIVE from the Croatian Sports Centre
* ALL matches kick off at 7.00pm.
PRE-MATCH broadcasts commences with League
Round Up at 6.30pm

ON
**MATCH OF
THE DAY**

Heading for Hawaii

ALL OF A SUDDEN Marconi seem to be in the news whichever paper that you pick up.

Their senior men's team heads the Ericsson Cup ladder while the club's youth side is also out in front of the Les Scheinflug Cup.

And with the women's team just back from a successful tour of

"Paterson is a good business - but anything with Marconi is good business"

Italy it seems that they can't keep out of the headlines either. But goalkeeper Amanda Paterson

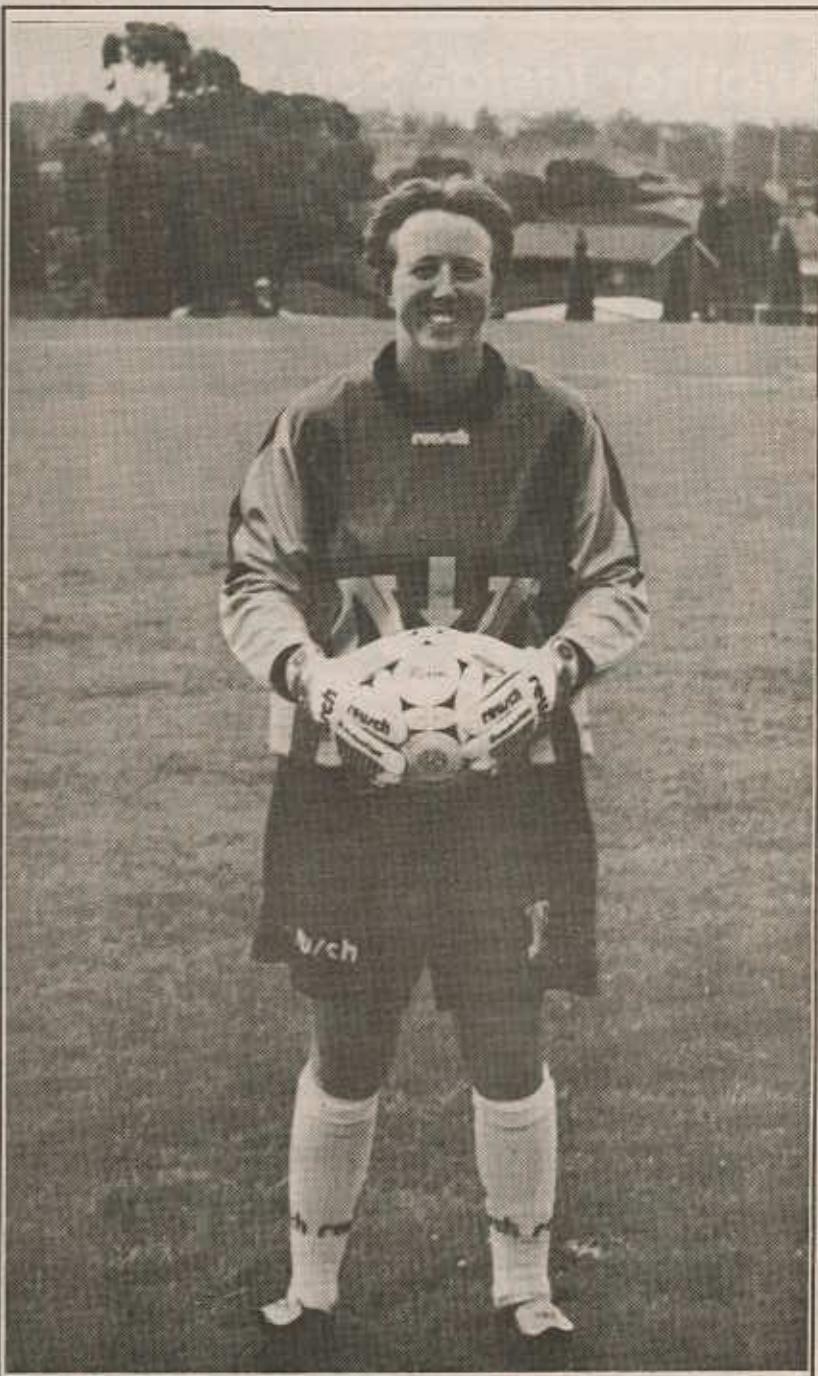
isn't complaining. In fact her share of the headlines has seen her being offered an opportunity to play in America at the end of the current WSL with the University of Hawaii.

Paterson had an outstanding season last year for both Marconi and the NSW State team.

Her early season had been hampered with a shoulder injury but, after a lay-off, grabbed her chance in the State team and really hasn't looked back since.

The offer of a scholarship is obviously great news, and fitting reward for her hard work which has also been recognised by goalkeeping glove manufacturer Reusch which has added the young Marconi keeper to its impressive stable.

Tracey Wheeler earlier became the first ever Australian



Ram strengthens link

Ram Sportswear is fast making a name for itself in the expanding world of Australian women's soccer.

"We received terrific support from Ram for our Italian tour," said Marconi captain/coach, Anissa Tann. "They are one of the few companies in the world which has the official FIFA approval for their soccer balls and it was great to use such high standard equipment when we played in Italy."

The Italian tour was a huge success and proved the high level of soccer at club level in the WSL.

"I am delighted with the impact that Ram has made in women's soccer," said Ram company spokesman, Terry Coates.

"The sales have certainly justified our investment."

female 'keeper to get Reusch recognition and now Paterson's addition is a double bonus for the women's code as it strives towards the 2000 Olympics.

Australia were disappointing in last year's World Cup which meant it didn't qualify for the USA Olympics, although

there is optimism that the sport may well be included on the list for Sydney 2000.

"I think that Amanda Paterson represents good business for us," says Marin Reusch who heads up the international Reusch company's operations in Australia.

"Plus anything to do with Marconi is obviously good business, too."

Paterson wore the Reusch gloves for the first time on the Marconi women's sides Italian tour where she was always one of the busiest players on the park. □

Boots 'n' Balls



He's done all the top jobs in Australian soccer and is now regarded as the country's top soccer journalist - and he doesn't care what the establishment says. Listen to *Inside Soccer* Editor Bruce Campbell on his highly rated Magazine Radio Programme NOW on Sydney Radio and Canberra - on Tuesdays at 8.20am.

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IT'S HOT!!!!



Another Inside Soccer big name EXCLUSIVE

Davo sees future in Oz

TALK TO any Australian player in Malaysia's blossoming M League and he will quickly tell you of the influence that Alan Davidson has at his club, Pahang. One player told me, almost in awe, of the almost royal treatment that the former South Melbourne star gets. That is a far cry from the more or less part time set-up in Australian football and it seemed that after hanging his boots up, that Davo would pursue a coaching career in the M League also. Currently he is

Once regarded as the best player in Australia, Alan Davidson today lives the life of royalty with his Malaysian club Pahang - but he could soon swap that to pilot Carlton in the Ericsson Cup

assistant coach at Pahang and it just seemed a natural progression before he took over the full reins.

But for two things, that is. One is a directive from the Malaysian FA that in future only Malaysian born

coaches would be appointed to M League clubs and the other is Davidson's own desire to rise to the top in Australia -

with the national team job as his priority target.

To get that he would almost certainly have to spend his 'apprenticeship' in the Ericsson Cup.

"Carlton is a 'culture' in Melbourne," says Davidson.

"I'd be delighted to coach a team from a club with such a tradition."

"Just now there isn't a single powerhouse club in the Ericsson Cup."

"No single club dominates Australian soccer the way that clubs like AC Milan or Manchester United do in Europe."

"I think that, with the

backing of a successful AFL club like Carlton, that they could become that powerhouse."

"Soccer needs that professionalism and flair."

Next season sees an increase in the Ericsson Cup to 14 clubs but in the 1997/98 season that will be further increased to 16 - with the admission of Carlton, and perhaps the 'arrival' in Australia of Davidson as a coach.

For Alan Davidson, the former Australian legend who still calls Melbourne home, that may well be the perfect timing.

John White

Studs Up

the Australian fans' perspective



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We don't like getting down on our knees and pleading, but if we can continue to slowly but surely build our subscription base we can keep producing 'SU' on a monthly basis.

So keep passing on the good word about 'SU' to all the people you sit (or stand) next to at A league games, State League games, representative games, amateur games, um, you've probably got the message by now.

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The BIG names ... the
BIG stories - ONLY IN
INSIDE SOCCER - the
paper which pulls no
punches



Dempsey 2 FIFA 0

by Brian Watson
in Auckland

TAKE ON the might of FIFA and you are in for a hard time.

But when you are tiny Oceania, existing on part confederation status within the world's biggest sporting organisation, then your odds are short.

Toss in the handicap of anti-Oceania feeling from neighbouring Asia AND Australia, your biggest member country, and things are clearly not looking healthy.

"That is exactly what Dempsey has had to contend with recently," said an 'observer' at last week-end's OFC congress in Auckland. "But he has done it - and really, it is the Aussies who will benefit the most."

Dempsey's latest victory comes in the form of a media address by FIFA

Oceania boss rings in the changes as the 'outcasts' gear up for full FIFA status

boss Joao Havelange who has said that he expects Oceania to be given full confederation status at the next FIFA World Congress in June. Havelange spoke to the meeting at length, both from the public platform and in private, and expressed full support for the tiny organisation which at one time looked to be in grave danger of getting the

FIFA boot. He has also said that as a full confederation member Australia is eligible to host the World Cup and with FIFA's known policy of exploring the outer limits of the sport that is always a possibility in the next twenty years or so. Now with another scalp under his belt Charlie Dempsey may yet get backing from Soccer Australia.

No way: Asian double bid idea rejected

FIFA has quashed any hopes that Japan and South Korea may settle their rivalry by entering a double bid to host the 2002 World Cup.

"The logistics of such an exercise would be enormously difficult," said a FIFA spokesman from Zurich.

"It would also escalate the costs of holding such a tournament - but other than that it is just against the rules."

Japan and South Korea have now entered into the next phase

of trying to secure the lucrative rights for the 2002 World Cup - which includes a fair bit of mud slinging.

The Koreans are openly stating that interest in the hugely successful J League is on the ebb while J League have reacted by branding their former military foes as liars.

The FIFA bid committee is expected to hand in its report to the world body shortly with an announcement likely at the FIFA Congress in June. □

Kiwi stars in flight fiasco

PLAYERS AT

struggling Waikato United recently went on a rampage of bad behaviour which earned their club a whopping \$4,000 fine.

Air charter company Tranzglobal filed a complaint with the New Zealand soccer authorities who, after a near four hearing, handing out the fine.

Tranzglobal officials told stories of Waikato players travelling drunk, dancing naked and trying to travel in the air company's baggage compartment.

And Soccer New Zealand have said that the incident is now closed with no further release on the subject.

Amazingly, Waikato United have not passed on any disciplinary action to the players involved but instead have promised a tightening up of club discipline.

But for Waikato their woes continue on the park as they slip closer to the bottom of the Smokefree NSL - New Zealand's revived national competition.

Waitakere City have established a clear lead at the other, thanks largely to the goals of top national scorer, Thomas Edge.

Edge played a big part in the recent Trans-Tasman internationals with Australia alongside his club mates, Darren McClellan and Rodger Gray.

With eleven games played Waitakere City already look

like a good bet for the NZ NSL.

This season Soccer New Zealand have opted for a J

league style system with four points for a win and a bonus point for penalty shoot out wins to end drawn games.

GAME 9

Waitakere	4	Wellington	1
Nelson Suburbs	1	Central United	2
North Shore United ..	2	Mount Manganui	1
Waikato United	3	Napier City	1
Miramar Rangers	4	Woolston	1

GAME 10

Waitakere City*	1	Napier City	1
* won shoot out 5-4			
Nelson Suburbs	5	Miramar Rangers	3
* won penalty shoot out 2-1			
North Shore United	1	Central United*	1
Waikato United	1	Mount Manganui	4
Wellington United	5	Woolston	0

GAME 11

Napier City Rovers	4	Wellington United	3
Mount Maunganui	1	Waitakere City	1
Central United	2	Waikato United	1
Miramar Rangers	3	North Shore United	2
Woolston	6	Nelson Suburbs	0

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+	Pts
Waitakere City	11	7	2	2	33	15	1	31
Central United	11	5	3	3	19	14	3	26
Miramar Rangers	11	6	1	4	25	21	0	25
Nelson	11	6	1	4	21	22	0	25
North Shore	11	5	3	3	17	18	2	25
Wellington United	11	5	2	4	22	16	1	23
Napier City	11	5	2	4	26	23	1	23
Waikato United	11	4	1	6	21	24	0	17
Mt Maunganui	11	2	1	8	16	31	1	10
Woolston	11	1	2	8	16	32	0	6

LEADING SCORERS:

11	Thomas Edge (Waitakere City)
10	Batram Suri (Nelson Suburbs)
9	Martin Akers (Napier City Rovers)
9	Darrin Brown (Waikato United)
8	Darren McClellan (Waitakere City)
6	Rupert Ryan (Wellington United)

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